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ACTION INL-00

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	SCT-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	EPAE-00
	ECA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/005W

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R 171447Z MAY 02
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8851
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
SECDEF WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
DOJ WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
COMSOC SOUTH ROOSEVELT ROADS PR
CIA WASHDC
DOE HQS FORRESTAL BLDG WASHINGTON DC
AMCONSUL RECIFE

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PTER, EPET, MASS, PREL, PGOV, EAID, SNAR, ASEC, CO
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION INITIATIVE

REFS: A) BOGOTA 2498 AND PREVIOUS, B) BOGOTA 4245, C)
BOGOTA 4317

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SUMMARY

1. (SBU) THE DCM AND COLOMBIAN VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE BERNARDO ORTIZ RECEIVED PRESENTATIONS FROM FIVE SUB-GROUPS OF THE EMBASSY-GOC JOINT WORKING GROUP ON THE ARAUCA ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE - MILITARY TRAINING, POLICE REINSERTION, ENHANCING CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS, STRENGTHENING STATE PRESENCE, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGY. ORTIZ EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANT ROLE IN COORDINATION THAT THESE MEETINGS WILL HAVE AND EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS BE MADE ON THESE ISSUES BEFORE THE END OF THE PASTRANA ADMINISTRATION IN AUGUST. END SUMMARY.

MILITARY TRAINING SUB-GROUP

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2. (SBU) ORTIZ AND THE DCM WERE BRIEFED ON THE TRAINING PLAN FOR THE 18TH DIVISION AND RELATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS. A TRAINING PROGRAM AND BUDGET WAS PREPARED AT US MILGROUP PLANNING CONFERENCE APRIL 17-18. PENDING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF FUNDING IN FY2002, USG, COLMIL, AND OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM (OXY) CAN BEGIN COORDINATING WHO WILL PROVIDE WHAT EQUIPMENT AND WHICH EQUIPMENT WOULD BE UNFUNDED AND NOT PROVIDED FROM THE TRAINING PLAN. (SEE REF B FOR A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE OF JOINT PLANNING ON MILITARY TRAINING.)

REESTABLISHING POLICE PRESENCE SUB-GROUP

3. (SBU) THE SUB-GROUP ON THE PROJECT TO REESTABLISH A COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) PRESENCE IN CONFLICTED AREAS REPORTED THAT ITS WORK IS PROGRESSING WELL. THE CNP HAS COMMENCED TRAINING OF THE FIRST OF 62 CARABINERO (MOUNTED POLICE) SQUADRONS. EACH SQUADRON WILL HAVE 150 POLICE OFFICERS AND ITS MEMBERS, IN ADDITION TO HAVING ATTENDED THE REGULAR ONE-YEAR POLICE ACADEMY COURSE, WILL HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST SIX WEEKS OF MILITARY-RELATED TRAINING FOR RURAL OPERATIONS. THE FIRST THREE CARABINERO SQUADRONS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO ARAUCA DEPARTMENT. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO REQUEST A US ARMY

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SPECIAL FORCES TEAM TO ASSIST IN TRAINING THESE SQUADRONS
AND TO TRAIN THE CNP INSTRUCTOR CADRE. THE PROJECT ALSO
ENVISIONS THE CONSTRUCTION OF HARDENED POLICE STATIONS IN
THE VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES WITHOUT POLICE PRESENCE (AT
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LAST COUNT, 188 OF APPROXIMATELY 1200 MUNICIPALITIES DID
NOT HAVE CNP PRESENCE.) UP TO 50 CNP WOULD BE ASSIGNED
TO THESE STATIONS. AN INTERAGENCY GOC COMMITTEE WILL
PRIORITIZE THE LOCATIONS TO RECEIVE THESE POLICE UNITS,
AND FOCUS OTHER FORMS OF GOC PRESENCE, SUCH AS HEALTH,
EDUCATION, JUDICIAL, ETC., WHICH NEED TO ACCOMPANY A
RETURN BY THE POLICE TO PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED ZONES. (SEE
REF C FOR A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE POLICE PRESENCE
INITIATIVE.)

STATE PRESENCE SUB-GROUP

4. (SBU) REINVIGORATING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S
PRESENCE WILL BE A KEY COMPONENT FOR PERMANENTLY
IMPROVING THE SECURITY SITUATION IN ARAUCA. THE SUB-
GROUP ON THIS ISSUE REPORTED THAT THE PROSECUTOR
GENERAL'S OFFICE (FISCALIA), WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FROM OXY AND ECOPEPETROL, HAS ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL

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R 171447Z MAY 02
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COUNTER-TERRORISM UNIT WITH OFFICES AND SLEEPING SPACE AT THE BASE OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY'S 18TH BRIGADE IN ARAUCA CITY TO INVESTIGATE ATTACKS ON THE PIPELINE. OXY AND ECOPETROL PAID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDINGS ON THE BASE. THE UNIT HAS HAD EARLY SUCCESS AND IS INVESTIGATING/PROSECUTING THE CASES OF MORE THAN 25 PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR ATTACKING THE PIPELINE SINCE THE START OF THE YEAR. THE STAFF ROTATES ON A BI-MONTHLY BASIS AND RECEIVES SECURITY SUPPORT FROM THE MILITARY. OXY AND ECOPETROL'S SUPPORT PROVIDES FOR TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES, PER DIEM, AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT. THE SUB-GROUP PROPOSED A SIMILAR UNIT TO ADDRESS CORRUPTION AND INVESTIGATE MALFEASANCE OF OIL ROYALTY FUNDS PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENTAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN OIL PRODUCING ZONES. ONE POSSIBLE SCENARIO IS THAT THE GROUP CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS ONE WEEK OF THE MONTH IN ARAUCA AND TRANSPORT BACK TO BOGOTA RECORDS FOR ANALYSIS THE REST OF THE MONTH.

5. (SBU) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE (PROCURADURIA) HAS RECENTLY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN ARAUCA, AGAIN WITH OXY AND ECOPETROL'S SUPPORT. THIS OFFICE WILL FOCUS MAINLY ON INVESTIGATING ANY ACCUSATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE BY THE MILITARY AND POLICE. THE

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SUB-GROUP SUGGESTED THAT THIS COULD BE EXPANDED TO ALSO
PROVIDE FOR INVESTIGATION OF MISCONDUCT BY LOCAL
OFFICIALS, HERE TOO WITH AN EYE TO MISUSE OF PETROLEUM
ROYALTIES. IT WAS ALSO FELT THAT THE GOC COMPTROLLER'S
OFFICE (CONTRALORIA) SHOULD BECOME ENGAGED IN ARAUCA,
ESPECIALLY FOR INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING MISUSE OF FUNDS.
ORTIZ PLEDGED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE NATIONAL
COMPTROLLER AND ASK FOR SUPPORT.

6. (SBU) THE SUB-GROUP ALSO SUGGESTED AFTER BETTER
SECURITY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THAT THE AID-SUPPORTED PROGRAM
OF "CASAS DE JUSTICIA" (CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTERS) BE
BROUGHT TO ARAUCA, AS WELL AS CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING
FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

ENHANCING CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS SUB-GROUP

7. (SBU) THE CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS SUB-GROUP HEADED
BY OLGA ISABEL ECHEVERRY, DIRECTOR OF THE COLOMBIAN
INVESTMENT FUND FOR PEACE (FIP), GAVE A PRESENTATION
CONCERNING THE VARIOUS SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS PLANNED OR
UNDERWAY IN ARAUCA. SHE REPORTED THAT THE PROGRAM "JOBS
IN ACTION" HAD A TOTAL OF 113 SUB-PROJECTS APPROVED FOR
FINANCING, WITH A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF USD 3.9 MILLION
PLANNED. OF THESE, 64 PROJECTS WERE ALREADY BEING
EXECUTED, WITH BUDGETS TOTALING USD 2 MILLION OVER THE
LIFE OF THE ACTIVITIES.

8. (SBU) SHE ALSO REPORTED THAT "FAMILIES IN ACTION," A
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GOC PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIES FOR FOOD AND EDUCATION
TO FAMILIES, IS ACTIVE IN SIX MUNICIPALITIES: ARAUQUITA,
CRAVO NORTE, FORTUL, SARAVENA, PUERTO RONDON, AND TAME.
"ROADS FOR PEACE," GOC'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
PROGRAM, IS EXPECTED TO REHABILITATE THE ROAD FROM HATO
COROZAL, THROUGH TAME AND ONTO ARAUCA, AT A COST OF
APPROXIMATELY USD 21.8 MILLION. SHE ALSO REPORTED ON THE
APPROVED WATER PROJECT, "HIDROVIA," WITH AN APPROVED
VALUE OF USD 113,000, AND THE PROGRAM "WORKS FOR PEACE,"
TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT IN ARAUQUITA, CRAVO
NORTE, FORTUL, AND PUERTO RONDON WITH A TOTAL PLANNED
INVESTMENT OF USD 910,000. FINALLY, SHE REPORTED ON THE
PLANNED EXPENDITURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LAND
MINES, WITH PLANNED INVESTMENT OF USD 4500.

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9. (SBU) THE REPRESENTATIVE OF OXY-ECOPETROL REPORTED ON SOCIAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY WITH A TOTAL VALUE IN 2002 OF SOME USD 833,000. THESE CONSIST OF AQUEDUCTS, SCHOOLS, HEALTH CENTERS, ROADS AND ELECTRIFICATION. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF ACCELERATING THE ESTIMATED THREE-MONTH EFFORT TO OBTAIN A CONSENSUS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES AS TO

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THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES. TOGETHER, THE GOC AND OXY-ECOPETROL PLAN ON SPENDING APPROXIMATELY USD 33 MILLION OVER A PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE MAIN ISSUE NOW IS NOT SO MUCH ONE OF BUDGET, AS ONE OF DESIGNING APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.

10. (SBU) ORTIZ INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN THE COMMUNICATION EFFORT TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ASSOCIATE THE ARMY WITH THE INAUGURATION OF WORKS AND THE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE CONCERNING THE PLANS FOR ARAUCA.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUB-GROUP

11. (SBU) THE SUB-GROUP ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSISTING OF EMBASSY PAS, MIST TEAM, AND RENDON GROUP REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL AS PLAN COLOMBIA PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR DAISSY CANON PRESENTED THE PROPOSED CONTOURS OF A PUBLIC AFFAIRS PLAN FOR ARAUCA. THE PROPOSAL DREW ON EXPERIENCE TO DATE IN PROMOTING PLAN COLOMBIA IN PUTUMAYO. THE

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COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP IDENTIFIED PUBLIC AFFAIRS OBJECTIVES, BEGINNING WITH EDUCATING LOCAL RESIDENTS ON WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE PIPELINE, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE REGIONAL ECONOMY. RELATED OBJECTIVES INCLUDED BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND INFORMING CITIZENS OF SOCIAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES BEING UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF PLAN COLOMBIA. THE WORKING GROUP IDENTIFIED RELEVANT AUDIENCES (PRINCIPALLY LOCAL, BUT ALSO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL) AND AVAILABLE MEDIA (PARTICULARLY RADIO, BUT ALSO TELEVISION, PRINT, BILLBOARDS, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND JOURNALIST WORKSHOPS). NEW INITIATIVES NEED TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY'S EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY CALLED ARAUCA SIGLO XXI. THE WORKING GROUP IDENTIFIED THREE STAGES (INFORMATIVE, EDUCATIONAL, SUSTAINING) CORRESPONDING TO EXTERNAL EVENTS SUCH AS CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION INITIATIVE AND THE ARRIVAL OF U.S. TRAINERS. A MORE SPECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN WILL BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION

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WITH THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND
OPERATIONAL PLAN.

12. (SBU) THE SUB-GROUP WILL CONTINUE THIS WORK AND
COORDINATION SO THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE CAN
BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION AS SOON AS FUNDING IS APPROVED.
ONGOING PROJECTS (E.G. POLICE CARABINERO TRAINING, FIP
SOCIAL PROGRAMS) CAN BE TIED TO THE INITIATIVE THROUGH
PUBLIC AFFAIRS EFFORTS AT THAT POINT.

PATTERSON

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